

WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

2023 BIG GAME BULLETIN



almost heaven®

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Black Bear 2

Season Results and Highlights 2

Non-hunting Mortalities 2

Damage Payments and Nuisance Complaints 2

Black Bear Monitoring 3

 Tooth Collections 3

 Reproductive Tract Collections 3

Wild Turkey 10

Spring Harvest 10

Fall Harvest 10

Mountaineer Heritage Season 10

Surveys 11

 Spring Gobbler Survey 11

 Brood Survey 11

Wild Boar 17

White-tailed Deer 18

This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you need more information, please write to:

Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

This bulletin was made possible through hunting and fishing license monies and funds from Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration. Project W-48-R-34 Statewide Wildlife Research

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION BULLETIN 23-1

Season Results and Highlights

West Virginia hunters harvested 2,830 black bears during the combined 2023 archery and firearms seasons (Tables 1, 2 and 3). The 2023 harvest was 64% above the 1,727 bears killed in 2022. The black bear harvest of 2023 is the sixth highest recorded harvest (Figure 1, Table 4).

The statewide mast index for all species combined in 2023 was up 15% compared to 2022. The best hard mast production in 2023 was recorded for red/black (+138% over 2022) and scarlet oak (+108% over 2022). The 2023 Mast Survey and Hunting Outlook predicted a higher bow/crossbow harvest compared to 2022 and a higher firearms harvest over the levels observed in 2022. Both predictions came true.

Hunters killed 932 bears during the first segment of the 2023 bow/crossbow season (September 30 – November 19). Hunters killed 470 with vertical bows, 462 were taken with crossbows. The top five counties were Fayette (83), McDowell and Wyoming (71), Nicholas (62) Raleigh (59) and Greenbrier (55).

Firearms hunters harvested 1,898 bears during 2023. Hunters took 538 bears in September and October (140 bears during the September youth, class Q/QQ, XS season, 10 during the October youth, class Q/QQ, XS season and 48 bears during the concurrent antlerless deer/bear season), 352 during the concurrent buck-gun bear season and 1,007 during the traditional December season. One bear was harvested during the sixth Mountaineer Heritage Season by muzzleloader. The top five counties were Boone (152), Nicholas (144), Randolph (133), Pocahontas (124) and Kanawha (124).

Non-hunting Mortalities

One hundred seventy bears were killed on highways, were killed illegally, were destroyed or died from other non-hunting causes (electrocution, mange, etc.) (Tables 4 and 5). This is up 37% from the 124 non-hunting mortalities recorded in 2022 (Table 4). There were 101 deaths from vehicles in 2023 compared to 63 in 2022. The number of illegal deaths increased to three in 2023 from one in 2022. Miscellaneous deaths decreased from three in 2022 to two in 2023. In 2023, miscellaneous deaths were attributed to wounding loss and unknown causes. Sixty-four bears were killed for nuisance or damage activity in 2022, which is a slight increase from 57 in 2022.

Damage Payments and Nuisance Complaints

All hunters who pursue bears are required to buy bear damage stamps (Class DS). Funds derived from stamp sales are deposited in a special bear damage account to reimburse property owners for real and personal property damage caused by bears.

The number of bear damage claims were up 81% from 63 in 2022 to 114 in 2023 (Table 6). Total payments of \$279,283 were 102% higher than the \$138,352 paid out in 2022. Claims were reported in 28 counties in 2023, which is an increase from the 20 counties reporting damage claims in 2022. There were 21 claims for bees (compared to 10 in 2022) totaling \$17,229, 10 for livestock at \$3,947 (9 in 2022), 43 for corn at \$238,133 (27 in 2022) and 40 (17 in 2022) miscellaneous claims at \$19,974.

Greenbrier County had the greatest dollar amount in compensation at \$143,522, followed by Monroe (\$65,036), Raleigh (\$19,491), Preston (\$9,768) and Randolph (\$5,985). Greenbrier County had the highest number of claims (22) followed by Raleigh (13), Randolph (11), Monroe (10) and Preston (9).

WVDNR employees received 1,227 nuisance bear calls in 2023 compared to 749 in 2022. The five counties with the most complaints were Raleigh (233), Greenbrier (118), Kanawha (110), Fayette (95) and Mercer (74).

Black Bear Monitoring

Radio collars have only been left on a small number of females in the northern and southern part of the state (five in 2023). These sows are used as surrogates for orphaned cubs whenever possible. In 2023, managers visited three sows with neonate cubs. The dens contained 9 cubs ($\chi = 3$). One sow had yearlings in 2023 and one den was inaccessible.

Monitoring the status of West Virginia's black bear population has always been a top priority for the WVDNR. Trends in bear population size are more realistic to obtain than absolute population numbers. Trends in bear population size are calculated by reconstructing the bear population using bear ages from the harvest. These data allow managers to make informed decisions regarding bear seasons and bag limits. Liberal hunting seasons in the eastern mountain counties from 2008–2021 (excluding 2009) reduced the bear population to the point where reduced hunting opportunities were justified. The decreasing trend in the bear population in the eastern mountain counties was detected in the reconstructed estimates of abundance derived from the bear teeth submitted by bear hunters.

TOOTH COLLECTIONS

Age data from the 2022 tooth samples have been received and hunters have been notified of their bear's age. Hunters submitted 1,214 usable teeth (correct tooth, tooth not broken, etc.) for age consideration. There were 17 cubs (1%), 34% (409) were yearlings, 26% (318) were 2-year-olds, 15% (176) were 3-year-olds and the remaining 24% (294) were 4 years old or older. Biologists use age data from hunter-harvested bear teeth to calculate population estimates and mortality rates for black bears in West Virginia. The 1,214 usable teeth submitted in 2022 represent 70% of the total black bear harvest. Hunters submitted 49% of the harvest in 2016, 53% of the harvest in 2017, 63% in 2018, 68% in 2019, 67% in 2020 and 72% in 2021.

REPRODUCTIVE TRACT COLLECTIONS

Wildlife managers and biologists have been collecting female reproductive tracts to estimate litter size around the state for over 40 years. The data gathered from reproductive tracts (cubs/female) mirrors data collected from visiting the dens of radio-tagged females. The information collected from examining female reproductive tracts can be obtained at far less cost than maintaining a large sample of radio-tagged females.

Managers collected 24 reproductive tracts in 2022. Twenty of the tracts supplied useful information. Reproductive tract data lags one year behind because researchers are waiting on age data. Information from reproductive tracts obtained in 2022 cannot be fully analyzed until ages are determined. Three yearling tracts were examined in 2022. None contained corpora lutea, indicating they had not bred. Three 2-year-olds were examined in 2022 with three tracts containing 4 corpora lutea ($\chi = 1.33$). These bears would have given birth at age 3 to their first litters. Six sows over the age of 3 showed evidence of breeding and averaged 3.33 corpora lutea. Six females over the age of 3 showed evidence of giving birth in 2022 and averaged two placental scars. Two 5-year-old sows had no evidence of corpora lutea or placental scars. However, these sows were handled by Wildlife Managers in early summer prior to the breeding season. It is likely any previous placental scars had faded, and they had not yet bred in 2022.

The WVDNR offered hunters who turned in complete reproductive tracts a \$20 gift card for their cooperation for the eighth time in 2023.

Figure 1. West Virginia black bear harvest, 1971–2023.

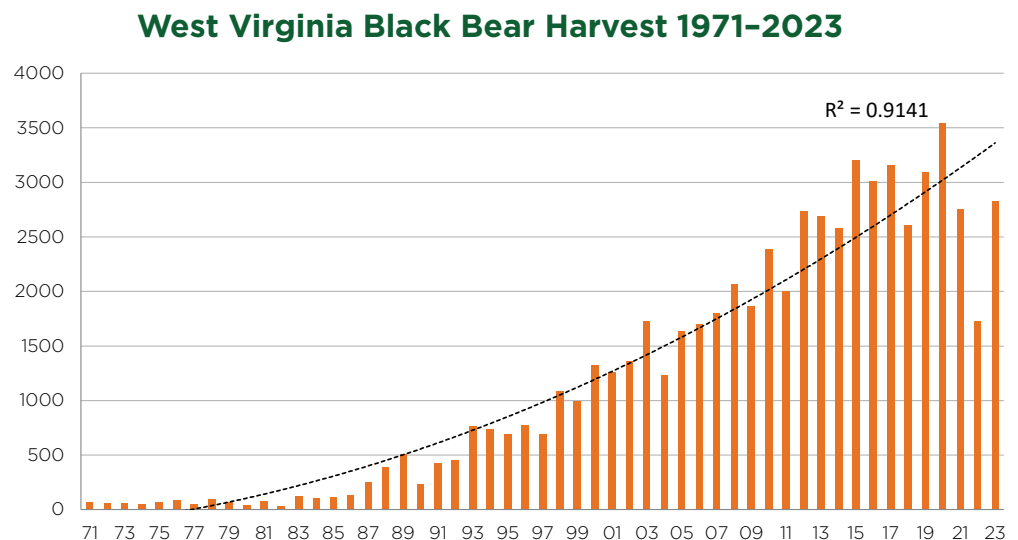


Table 1. 2023 West Virginia Black Bear Harvest

| COUNTY | BOW/ CROSSBOW | SEPT./OCT. GUN | BUCK GUN | DECEMBER FIREARMS | MOUNTAINEER HERITAGE | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Barbour | 13 | 8 | 18 | 12 | 0 | 51 |
| Brooke | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hancock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrison | 7 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Marion | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Marshall | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Monongalia | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Ohio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Preston | 21 | 2 | 1 | 35 | 0 | 59 |
| Taylor | 8 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Tucker | 11 | 10 | 0 | 61 | 0 | 82 |
| Wetzel | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 68 | 23 | 42 | 108 | 0 | 241 |
| Berkeley | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Grant | 11 | 4 | 1 | 31 | 0 | 47 |
| Hampshire | 9 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| Hardy | 11 | 4 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 41 |
| Jefferson | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Mineral | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 14 |
| Morgan | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Pendleton | 12 | 11 | 2 | 79 | 0 | 104 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 50 | 23 | 21 | 144 | 0 | 238 |
| Braxton | 27 | 3 | 13 | 32 | 0 | 75 |
| Clay | 12 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 26 |
| Lewis | 9 | 2 | 19 | 3 | 0 | 33 |
| Nicholas | 62 | 68 | 27 | 49 | 0 | 206 |
| Pocahontas | 13 | 9 | 0 | 115 | 0 | 137 |
| Randolph | 38 | 18 | 0 | 115 | 0 | 171 |
| Upshur | 12 | 6 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 36 |
| Webster | 45 | 18 | 0 | 95 | 0 | 158 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 218 | 128 | 64 | 431 | 1 | 842 |
| Fayette | 83 | 44 | 37 | 22 | 0 | 186 |
| Greenbrier | 55 | 6 | 2 | 88 | 0 | 151 |
| McDowell | 71 | 47 | 1 | 32 | 0 | 151 |
| Mercer | 39 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 51 |
| Monroe | 28 | 12 | 7 | 22 | 0 | 69 |
| Raleigh | 59 | 41 | 24 | 12 | 0 | 136 |
| Summers | 33 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 45 |
| Wyoming | 71 | 44 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 126 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 439 | 202 | 89 | 185 | 0 | 915 |
| Boone | 41 | 66 | 42 | 44 | 0 | 193 |
| Cabell | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Kanawha | 26 | 37 | 44 | 43 | 0 | 150 |
| Lincoln | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Logan | 28 | 35 | 2 | 34 | 0 | 99 |
| Mason | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Mingo | 23 | 17 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 42 |
| Putnam | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wayne | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 123 | 155 | 101 | 123 | 0 | 502 |
| Calhoun | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Doddridge | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Gilmer | 10 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 25 |
| Jackson | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Pleasants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ritchie | 5 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 17 |
| Roane | 8 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Tyler | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wirt | 3 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Wood | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 34 | 7 | 35 | 16 | 0 | 92 |
| STATE TOTAL | 932 | 538 | 352 | 1007 | 1 | 2830 |

Bears listed for Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties as "Buck Gun" are bow or crossbow kills from November 20 - December 3.

Bow/Crossbow refers to bears killed with a bow or crossbow from September 30, 2023 - November 19, 2023. All other bow and crossbow kills have been separated based on the seasons in which they were killed.

Sept/Oct Gun includes bears killed during the youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS seasons (140 bears; September 16-17) and (10 bears; October 21-22) and 48 bears killed during the concurrent deer/bear season (October 26-29).

Table 2. Sex ratios of West Virginia black bears for September or November gun season, bow season, December and Mountaineer Heritage season, 1964-2023.

| | BOW OR GUN SEASON SEPT./OCT. | | BOW SEASON AND/OR EARLY NOV. GUN SEASON | | LATE NOV. OR DEC. OR JAN. GUN SEASON | | ANNUAL KILL | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|---|--------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| YEAR | MALE | FEMALE | MALE | FEMALE | MALE | FEMALE | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL* |
| 1964-1993 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| 30-Year Total | 0 | 0 | 561 | 417 | 1,531 | 890 | 2,092 | 1,307 | 4,671 |
| Sex Ratios | 0 | 0 | 57% | 43% | 63% | 37% | 62% | 38% | |
| 1994 | 0 | 0 | 111 | 73 | 290 | 258 | 401 | 331 | 732 |
| 1995 | 0 | 0 | 152 | 75 | 310 | 153 | 462 | 228 | 690 |
| 1996 | 0 | 0 | 114 | 101 | 355 | 198 | 469 | 299 | 768 |
| 1997 | 0 | 0 | 225 | 198 | 178 | 85 | 403 | 283 | 686 |
| 1998 | 0 | 0 | 167 | 97 | 481 | 337 | 648 | 434 | 1,082 |
| 1999 | 0 | 0 | 256 | 168 | 369 | 201 | 625 | 369 | 994 |
| 2000 | 0 | 0 | 196 | 102 | 655 | 364 | 851 | 466 | 1,317 |
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 302 | 165 | 482 | 301 | 784 | 466 | 1,250 |
| 2002 | 0 | 0 | 540 | 321 | 327 | 169 | 867 | 490 | 1,357 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 605 | 422 | 450 | 222 | 1,055 | 644 | 1,699 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 319 | 219 | 479 | 218 | 798 | 437 | 1,235 |
| 2005 | 0 | 0 | 432 | 285 | 616 | 301 | 1048 | 586 | 1,634 |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 | 399 | 266 | 727 | 312 | 1,126 | 578 | 1,704 |
| 2007 | 0 | 0 | 521 | 328 | 637 | 318 | 1,158 | 646 | 1,804 |
| 2008 | 348 | 322 | 283 | 177 | 597 | 343 | 1,228 | 842 | 2,070 |
| 2009 | 118 | 79 | 575 | 417 | 464 | 215 | 1,157 | 711 | 1,868 |
| 2010 | 215 | 248 | 314 | 146 | 932 | 530 | 1,461 | 924 | 2,385 |
| 2011 | 332 | 306 | 356 | 254 | 483 | 276 | 1,171 | 836 | 2,007 |
| 2012 | 380 | 310 | 462 | 261 | 844 | 478 | 1,686 | 1,049 | 2,735 |
| 2013 | 375 | 309 | 523 | 330 | 743 | 412 | 1,641 | 1,051 | 2,692 |
| 2014 | 265 | 240 | 402 | 165 | 1008 | 501 | 1,675 | 906 | 2,581 |
| 2015 | 423 | 303 | 685 | 406 | 843 | 541 | 1,951 | 1,250 | 3,201 |
| 2016 | 457 | 426 | 600 | 419 | 741 | 369 | 1,798 | 1,214 | 3,012 |
| 2017 | 349 | 274 | 399 | 212 | 1,220 | 704 | 1,968 | 1,190 | 3,158 |
| 2018 | 319 | 246 | 421 | 216 | 965 | 439 | 1,705 | 901 | 2,606 |
| 2019 | 507 | 374 | 636 | 330 | 779 | 473 | 1,922 | 1,177 | 3,099 |
| 2020 | 652 | 573 | 641 | 454 | 796 | 425 | 2,089 | 1,452 | 3,541 |
| 2021 | 430 | 350 | 426 | 213 | 857 | 480 | 1,713 | 1,043 | 2,756 |
| 2022 | 125 | 88 | 330 | 191 | 680 | 313 | 1,135 | 592 | 1,727 |
| 2023 | 299 | 239 | 594 | 338 | 942 | 418 | 1,835 | 995 | 2,830 |
| 30-YEAR TOTAL | 5,594 | 4,687 | 11,986 | 7,349 | 19,250 | 10,354 | 36,830 | 22,390 | 59,220 |
| Average Sex Ratios | 54% | 46% | 62% | 38% | 65% | 35% | 62% | 38% | |
| 2023 Sex Ratios | 56% | 44% | 64% | 36% | 69% | 31% | 65% | 35% | |

*Represents bears of known sex and not the total harvest in each year.

Table 3. West Virginia total black bear harvest by county, 2019-2023.

| COUNTY | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Barbour | 67 | 69 | 32 | 31 | 51 |
| Brooke | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hancock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrison | 4 | 22 | 6 | 11 | 13 |
| Marion | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Marshall | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| Monongalia | 5 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 9 |
| Ohio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Preston | 106 | 144 | 76 | 68 | 59 |
| Taylor | 12 | 18 | 7 | 16 | 13 |
| Tucker | 108 | 98 | 90 | 39 | 82 |
| Wetzel | 9 | 14 | 8 | 11 | 7 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 318 | 377 | 225 | 197 | 241 |
| Berkeley | 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| Grant | 84 | 109 | 75 | 31 | 47 |
| Hampshire | 48 | 40 | 20 | 24 | 19 |
| Hardy | 108 | 82 | 36 | 16 | 41 |
| Jefferson | 10 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Mineral | 23 | 25 | 12 | 10 | 14 |
| Morgan | 9 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 7 |
| Pendleton | 182 | 166 | 147 | 47 | 104 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 472 | 438 | 307 | 140 | 238 |
| Braxton | 78 | 89 | 62 | 38 | 75 |
| Clay | 57 | 69 | 36 | 29 | 26 |
| Lewis | 25 | 26 | 28 | 34 | 33 |
| Nicholas | 214 | 249 | 209 | 119 | 206 |
| Pocahontas | 135 | 177 | 199 | 101 | 137 |
| Randolph | 242 | 231 | 185 | 100 | 171 |
| Upshur | 42 | 42 | 33 | 17 | 36 |
| Webster | 193 | 204 | 145 | 70 | 158 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 986 | 1087 | 897 | 508 | 842 |
| Fayette | 181 | 172 | 174 | 118 | 186 |
| Greenbrier | 153 | 199 | 152 | 86 | 151 |
| McDowell | 156 | 168 | 119 | 72 | 151 |
| Mercer | 39 | 37 | 45 | 19 | 51 |
| Monroe | 89 | 73 | 76 | 48 | 69 |
| Raleigh | 97 | 112 | 98 | 59 | 136 |
| Summers | 35 | 46 | 33 | 30 | 45 |
| Wyoming | 101 | 142 | 98 | 49 | 126 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 851 | 949 | 795 | 481 | 915 |
| Boone | 170 | 192 | 188 | 132 | 193 |
| Cabell | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Kanawha | 120 | 167 | 130 | 94 | 150 |
| Lincoln | 3 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| Logan | 98 | 169 | 91 | 59 | 99 |
| Mason | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Mingo | 38 | 84 | 52 | 42 | 42 |
| Putnam | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Wayne | 4 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 434 | 633 | 478 | 341 | 502 |
| Calhoun | 12 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| Doddridge | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Gilmer | 7 | 16 | 14 | 22 | 25 |
| Jackson | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Pleasants | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ritchie | 7 | 9 | 12 | 4 | 17 |
| Roane | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 |
| Tyler | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Wirt | 5 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 10 |
| Wood | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 38 | 57 | 54 | 60 | 92 |
| STATE TOTAL | 3,099 | 3,541 | 2,756 | 1,727 | 2,830 |

Table 4. Number of black bears killed each year in West Virginia and cause of death.

| YEAR | BOW | GUN | ILLEGAL | ROADKILLS | DESTROYED | MISC. | TOTAL |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|---|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 70s SUBTOTAL | 14 | 523 | 70s AVERAGE ANNUAL BAG: BOW 2; GUN 65 | | | | |
| 80s SUBTOTAL | 261 | 1,542 | 80s AVERAGE ANNUAL BAG: BOW 26; GUN 154 | | | | |
| 90s SUBTOTAL | 2,363 | 4,506 | 90s AVERAGE ANNUAL BAG: BOW 236; GUN 450 | | | | |
| 2000 | 305 | 1,023 | 6 | 16 | 8 | 4 | 1,362 |
| 2001 | 475 | 785 | 18 | 43 | 22 | 1 | 1,344 |
| 2002 | 726 | 670 | 14 | 82 | 28 | 10 | 1,530 |
| 2003 | 774 | 958 | 17 | 87 | 61 | 7 | 1,904 |
| 2004 | 374 | 861 | 7 | 55 | 22 | 11 | 1,330 |
| 2005 | 585 | 1,076 | 15 | 62 | 18 | 10 | 1,766 |
| 2006 | 516 | 1,188 | 8 | 61 | 36 | 10 | 1,819 |
| 2007 | 728 | 1,076 | 4 | 62 | 155 | 7 | 2,032 |
| 2008 | 460 | 1,610 | 3 | 38 | 34 | 6 | 2,151 |
| 2009 | 992 | 876 | 11 | 70 | 184 | 9 | 2,142 |
| 00s SUBTOTAL | 5,935 | 10,123 | 00s AVERAGE ANNUAL BAG: BOW 600; GUN 1,002 | | | | |
| 2010 | 460 | 1,925 | 6 | 66 | 35 | 5 | 2,497 |
| 2011 | 610 | 1,397 | 8 | 107 | 85 | 6 | 2,213 |
| 2012 | 723 | 2,012 | 5 | 72 | 104 | 2 | 2,918 |
| 2013 | 853 | 1,839 | 4 | 65 | 94 | 12 | 2,867 |
| 2014 | 593 | 1,988 | 2 | 81 | 86 | 7 | 2,757 |
| 2015 | 1,091 | 2,110 | 3 | 60 | 83 | 8 | 3,355 |
| 2016 | 1,019 | 1,993 | 1 | 108 | 127 | 8 | 3,256 |
| 2017 | 611 | 2,547 | 1 | 63 | 73 | 3 | 3,298 |
| 2018 | 637 | 1,969 | 0 | 119 | 72 | 6 | 2,803 |
| 2019 | 966 | 2,133 | 7 | 100 | 128 | 30 | 3,364 |
| 10s SUBTOTAL | 7,563 | 19,913 | 10s AVERAGE ANNUAL BAG: BOW 756; GUN 1,991 | | | | |
| 2020 | 1,095 | 2,446 | 7 | 125 | 254 | 11 | 3,938 |
| 2021 | 639 | 2,117 | 1 | 103 | 51 | 6 | 2,917 |
| 2022 | 521 | 1,206 | 1 | 63 | 57 | 3 | 1,851 |
| 2023 | 932 | 1,898 | 3 | 101 | 64 | 2 | 3,000 |

November Gun Seasons held in 1989, and 2002–2023 in certain counties.

September Season held in 2008–2023 in certain counties.

Check tags without season (<0.05 percent) marked were assumed gun kills for this table.

Bow kill for 2015–2023 indicates bears killed between the first day of archery season and the first day of buck firearms season, not all bears killed with a bow or crossbow.

Table 5. West Virginia 2023 non-hunting black bear mortalities by county and type.

| COUNTY | ROADKILLS | ILLEGAL | DESTROYED | MISC. | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| Barbour | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Brooke | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hancock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrison | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Marion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Marshall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monongalia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ohio | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Preston | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Taylor | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tucker | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wetzel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Berkeley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grant | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Hampshire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Hardy | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Jefferson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mineral | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Morgan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pendleton | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 7 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 4 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 12 |
| Braxton | 20 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Clay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lewis | 10 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| Nicholas | 6 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 11 |
| Pocahontas | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Randolph | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Upshur | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Webster | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 40 | 2 | 20 | 0 | 38 |
| Fayette | 6 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 13 |
| Greenbrier | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 15 |
| McDowell | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Mercer | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Monroe | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Raleigh | 11 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 21 |
| Summers | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Wyoming | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 31 | 1 | 32 | 2 | 66 |
| Boone | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Cabell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kanawha | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Lincoln | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Logan | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Mason | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mingo | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Putnam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wayne | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 23 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 27 |
| Calhoun | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Doddridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gilmer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jackson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Pleasants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ritchie | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Roane | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tyler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wirt | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wood | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| STATE TOTAL | 101 | 3 | 64 | 2 | 170 |

Table 6. Black bear damage claims paid and payments by county 2019-2023.

| COUNTY | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | |
|--------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| | CLAIMS | PAYMENTS | CLAIMS | PAYMENTS | CLAIMS | PAYMENTS | CLAIMS | PAYMENTS | CLAIMS | PAYMENTS |
| Barbour | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$331 | 1 | \$1,050 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Berkeley | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$330 |
| Boone | 2 | \$866 | 3 | \$1,635 | 2 | \$2,079 | 2 | \$647 | 1 | \$725 |
| Braxton | 3 | \$1,720 | 5 | \$2,004 | 2 | \$439 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Brooke | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$8,479 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Cabell | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$1,079 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Calhoun | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$184 | 1 | \$69 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Clay | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$115 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Doddridge | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$832 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Fayette | 5 | \$3,413 | 11 | \$7,531 | 4 | \$949 | 4 | \$5,091 | 2 | \$403 |
| Gilmer | 2 | \$599 | 2 | \$1,307 | 2 | \$951 | 2 | \$1,486 | 1 | \$3,200 |
| Grant | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$170 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Greenbrier | 26 | \$88,333 | 32 | \$105,142 | 19 | \$35,612 | 8 | \$68,325 | 22 | \$143,522 |
| Hampshire | 4 | \$4,698 | 2 | \$1,351 | 1 | \$1,428 | 3 | \$5,735 | 1 | \$483 |
| Hancock | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Hardy | 3 | \$4,700 | 7 | \$6,397 | 1 | \$5,758 | 1 | \$227 | 0 | \$0 |
| Harrison | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$225 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Jackson | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Jefferson | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Kanawha | 2 | \$1,640 | 3 | \$873 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$1,594 | 3 | \$3,702 |
| Lewis | 1 | \$250 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$451 | 2 | \$620 | 3 | \$754 |
| Lincoln | 0 | \$0 | 4 | \$2,498 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Logan | 0 | \$0 | 6 | \$4,251 | 5 | \$2,087 | 0 | \$0 | 3 | \$1,698 |
| Marion | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$610 | 0 | \$0 | 2 | \$807 |
| Marshall | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$560 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Mason | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| McDowell | 0 | \$0 | 4 | \$1,530 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$226 | 1 | \$200 |
| Mercer | 4 | \$2,279 | 9 | \$4,568 | 1 | \$319 | 3 | \$2,099 | 4 | \$4,606 |
| Mineral | 3 | \$3,291 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Mingo | 0 | \$0 | 3 | \$1,970 | 1 | \$3,081 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$630 |
| Monongalia | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 4 | \$2,342 | 1 | \$491 | 0 | \$0 |
| Monroe | 8 | \$19,011 | 15 | \$31,785 | 9 | \$16,045 | 6 | \$27,402 | 10 | \$65,036 |
| Morgan | 3 | \$1,019 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$1,000 |
| Nicholas | 6 | \$10,940 | 3 | \$1,097 | 6 | \$3,428 | 5 | \$868 | 5 | \$2,619 |
| Ohio | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Pendleton | 17 | \$13,197 | 12 | \$7,291 | 8 | \$2,098 | 4 | \$930 | 3 | \$2,124 |
| Pleasants | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Pocahontas | 7 | \$7,343 | 12 | \$34,913 | 6 | \$3,210 | 5 | \$4,454 | 5 | \$4,059 |
| Preston | 13 | \$14,220 | 12 | \$33,350 | 2 | \$1,866 | 5 | \$11,411 | 9 | \$9,768 |
| Putnam | 1 | \$150 | 1 | \$500 | 1 | \$486 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Raleigh | 4 | \$4,349 | 5 | \$2,911 | 4 | \$1,936 | 7 | \$3,470 | 13 | \$19,491 |
| Randolph | 2 | \$287 | 7 | \$6,205 | 3 | \$905 | 0 | \$0 | 11 | \$5,985 |
| Ritchie | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$537 | 1 | \$227 | 1 | \$1,630 | 0 | \$0 |
| Roane | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Summers | 2 | \$223 | 1 | \$96 | 2 | \$2,758 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$1,874 |
| Taylor | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 4 | \$3,304 |
| Tucker | 3 | \$2,660 | 3 | \$2,524 | 2 | \$1,534 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Tyler | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Upshur | 2 | \$100 | 1 | \$432 | 2 | \$159 | 0 | \$0 | 3 | \$401 |
| Wayne | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Webster | 4 | \$1,228 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$120 | 1 | \$500 |
| Wetzel | 1 | \$630 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$130 | 1 | \$1,526 | 2 | \$0 |
| Wirt | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$1,785 |
| Wood | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Wyoming | 1 | \$200 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 0 | \$0 | 1 | \$277 |
| TOTAL | 129 | \$187,346 | 170 | \$264,802 | 97 | \$101,878 | 63 | \$138,352 | 114 | \$279,283 |

Harvest

SPRING HARVEST

The Spring gobbler season began in 1966 on wildlife management areas and went statewide in 1968. West Virginia hunters harvested 12,217 bearded turkeys during the 2023 spring turkey season (Table 7). This is 30.4% above last year's harvest (9,366), 12.6% above the five-year average (10,850) and 14.6% above the 10-year average (10,661). It is also the largest harvest since 2018 when 12,287 birds were taken (Fig. 2). With 52.6% of the total harvest occurring the first week of the five-week season, the first week remained the primary week to harvest a bird followed by the second week (17.4%), the third week (10.4%) and the fourth and fifth weeks at 6.7% and 6.5%, respectively (Table 8). Bearded hens remained a small portion of birds harvested, making up only 0.28% of the total harvest.

This was the fourth year youth season included two days (i.e., the Saturday and Sunday prior to the opening day). Youth hunters harvested 781 birds, 490 and 291 on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. The youth season harvest made up 6.4% of the entire 2023 spring turkey harvest and was 65.8% above last year's youth harvest of 471 birds (Table 8).

All districts saw an increase over last year's harvest, except District 4 which had a slight decrease (Table 7). District 1 harvested the most birds (2,563) followed by District 6 (2,206), District 5 (2,148), District 4 (1,871), District 2 (1,766) and District 3 (1,663). The top five counties with the highest turkey harvest were Mason (559), Jackson (416), Preston (390), Harrison (357) and Hampshire (347) counties.

FALL HARVEST

All 55 counties had at least a one-week fall turkey season, which had a one-bird, either-sex bag limit. Twenty-three counties had a one-week season. Eighteen counties, which had a spring harvest of at least 0.75 birds per square mile, were open to a split two-week season. Fourteen "traditional" counties had a four-week split season, and one had a two-week split season. Hunters harvested 981 turkeys (490 females, 491 males) (Table 9), down 3.2% from 2022, 1.3% above the five-year average and 12.1% below the 10-year average (Fig. 3).

Although fall harvest mostly depends on participation, it also usually reflects the current year's brood production and mast conditions. The poult per hen (pph) statewide average for 2023 was 2.12, 19.4% below last year's ratio (2.63 pph). It was suspected that the 2023 fall harvest would be below last year's fall harvest. However, due to a higher spring harvest, more counties were open to a two-week fall season than last year allowing more opportunity for hunters.

Districts 1 and 4 increased their harvest over last year with the others showing a slight decline. District 4 had the highest harvest (229 birds) followed by District 3 (215), District 1 (165), District 2 (142), District 6 (119) and District 5 (111).

Leading the state was Nicholas County with hunters harvesting 57 birds, followed by Greenbrier (46), Monroe (43), Randolph (42) and Fayette (32). All of these counties, except Fayette, had a four-week season.

Overall, the combined 2023 spring and fall turkey harvest was 13,198 birds (Table 10). This is up 27.2% from 2022's total harvest (10,378). Since 1966, 2023 ranked 15th in the highest total harvest.

MOUNTAINEER HERITAGE SEASON

2024 was the third year turkeys could be harvested during the Mountaineer Heritage Season. The 2024 Mountaineer Heritage Season ran from January 11-14 with 31 birds being harvested, 12 females and 19 males. All 31 were harvested on private land. Birds were killed under landowner privilege (9), lifetime (8), resident (8), senior (5) and non-resident (1) licenses. Thirty-six birds were harvested during the 2023 season.

Surveys

SPRING GOBBLER SURVEY

The WVDNR's Wildlife Resources Section and the West Virginia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) conduct an annual survey of spring gobbler hunters. The survey is done entirely by volunteer sportsmen who donate their time and effort to gather information to help the WVDNR manage wild turkeys. Typically, the West Virginian Chapter of NWTf sends survey forms to its members and the Wildlife Resources Section compiles the data from these and other participants. A survey report is written and provided free to cooperators. The results from this survey were not available at the time of this printing.

Hunters desiring a copy of the annual survey report need to participate in the survey. Spring gobbler hunters wanting to help are encouraged to contact:

Spring Gobbler Survey
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 67
Elkins, WV 26241
Phone (304) 637-0245

Those wishing to participate will be sent the necessary forms and a questionnaire prior to the spring hunting season. The survey is simple to conduct, and a hunter does not have to harvest a gobbler to provide useful data. Most of the information collected deals with what hunters hear, see or have an opinion on, as it relates to turkeys.

BROOD SURVEY

Statewide, 32 observers (out of a potential 55) documented 451 encounters with turkeys in 2023, including 589 hens, 1,016 poults, 330 gobblers, 101 unknown birds and 25 "seen before" observations. This was a 1.1% decrease compared to 2022 (456 observations). Removing the repeated observations yielded 556 hens, 924 poults, 301 gobblers, 101 unknowns, with a 1.66 poult per hen ratio for the entire observation period. The 2023 poult-per-hen ratio was 1.2% below 2022 observations (1.68 poults/hen).

Slight modifications were made to West Virginia's observations to standardize them with the Northeast and Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) for regional indices. Currently both associations and the NWTf Technical Committee have adopted the SEAFWA methodology for a standardized national survey. This index uses the average of poults per hen for each observation of hens with broods compared to all observations of hens during July and August. This index takes into consideration those hens that either lost their nests or broods, which more accurately reflects the status of recruitment. There were 174 observations statewide of hens or hens with broods in July and August. This included 361 hens and 689 poults. The statewide poult per hen ratio in 2023 was 2.12, down 19.4% from 2022 (i.e., 2.63 poults/hen) and the third-highest ratio in the past five years. The Western Region had the highest poults per hen ratio (2.64 poults/hen) followed by the Eastern Panhandle Region (2.19 poults/hen) and the Mountain Region (1.98 poults/hen), with the Southern Region observing the lowest ratio (1.46 poults/hen) (Table 11).

A total of 26,126.75 hours were worked between July 1 and August 31 by 55 potential observers. Using the national standardized method above resulted in a statewide 0.08 poults/hen/1,000 hours. This is the lowest estimate of production associated with effort since we began looking at this metric (2022: 0.30 poults/hen/1,000 hours, 2021: 0.14 poults/hen/1,000 hours, 2020: 0.11 poults/hen/1,000 hours).

A total of 157 turkey broods were observed in 2023 (Table 12). This is a 9.8% increase compared to last year's observations and 6.1% above the five-year average.

Table 7. Spring harvest of wild turkeys in West Virginia, 2019-2023.

| COUNTY | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 202 | 234 | 163 | 139 | 216 |
| Brooke | 118 | 131 | 134 | 106 | 115 |
| Hancock | 109 | 146 | 190 | 123 | 131 |
| Harrison | 347 | 339 | 271 | 224 | 357 |
| Marion | 298 | 289 | 226 | 191 | 228 |
| Marshall | 311 | 296 | 252 | 247 | 291 |
| Monongalia | 263 | 270 | 235 | 229 | 258 |
| Ohio | 145 | 130 | 119 | 111 | 122 |
| Preston | 455 | 434 | 343 | 357 | 390 |
| Taylor | 142 | 146 | 102 | 100 | 129 |
| Tucker | 102 | 86 | 87 | 80 | 83 |
| Wetzel | 270 | 248 | 176 | 159 | 243 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 2,762 | 2,749 | 2,298 | 2,066 | 2,563 |
| Berkeley | 141 | 151 | 131 | 170 | 236 |
| Grant | 140 | 124 | 146 | 141 | 207 |
| Hampshire | 203 | 176 | 209 | 210 | 347 |
| Hardy | 142 | 123 | 137 | 154 | 267 |
| Jefferson | 125 | 121 | 115 | 135 | 162 |
| Mineral | 121 | 113 | 114 | 145 | 215 |
| Morgan | 83 | 93 | 58 | 92 | 147 |
| Pendleton | 112 | 111 | 138 | 126 | 185 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 1,067 | 1,012 | 1,048 | 1,173 | 1,766 |
| Braxton | 257 | 234 | 183 | 157 | 207 |
| Clay | 102 | 102 | 123 | 73 | 126 |
| Lewis | 233 | 250 | 225 | 183 | 212 |
| Nicholas | 260 | 265 | 219 | 217 | 256 |
| Pocahontas | 155 | 109 | 146 | 165 | 193 |
| Randolph | 258 | 214 | 225 | 223 | 261 |
| Upshur | 297 | 255 | 260 | 209 | 265 |
| Webster | 100 | 93 | 103 | 84 | 143 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 1,662 | 1,522 | 1,484 | 1,311 | 1,663 |
| Fayette | 257 | 290 | 254 | 284 | 300 |
| Greenbrier | 254 | 248 | 259 | 321 | 288 |
| McDowell | 105 | 122 | 118 | 65 | 124 |
| Mercer | 129 | 174 | 194 | 248 | 203 |
| Monroe | 231 | 201 | 256 | 295 | 255 |
| Raleigh | 205 | 212 | 218 | 276 | 255 |
| Summers | 158 | 182 | 194 | 230 | 236 |
| Wyoming | 182 | 190 | 180 | 158 | 210 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 1,521 | 1,619 | 1,673 | 1,877 | 1,871 |
| Boone | 132 | 169 | 119 | 86 | 150 |
| Cabell | 147 | 182 | 127 | 109 | 149 |
| Kanawha | 296 | 310 | 299 | 210 | 310 |
| Lincoln | 173 | 218 | 174 | 144 | 214 |
| Logan | 141 | 172 | 151 | 113 | 178 |
| Mason | 465 | 457 | 364 | 351 | 559 |
| Mingo | 118 | 147 | 119 | 75 | 146 |
| Putnam | 236 | 287 | 222 | 199 | 284 |
| Wayne | 132 | 190 | 126 | 105 | 158 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 1,840 | 2,132 | 1,701 | 1,392 | 2,148 |
| Calhoun | 164 | 147 | 154 | 96 | 155 |
| Doddridge | 178 | 198 | 143 | 134 | 177 |
| Gilmer | 142 | 140 | 133 | 85 | 158 |
| Jackson | 447 | 404 | 323 | 309 | 416 |
| Pleasants | 124 | 109 | 97 | 76 | 106 |
| Ritchie | 285 | 283 | 252 | 176 | 271 |
| Roane | 258 | 252 | 244 | 166 | 272 |
| Tyler | 217 | 209 | 157 | 138 | 192 |
| Wirt | 186 | 200 | 157 | 125 | 174 |
| Wood | 362 | 344 | 270 | 242 | 285 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 2,363 | 2,286 | 1,930 | 1,547 | 2,206 |
| STATE TOTAL | 11,215 | 11,320 | 10,134 | 9,366 | 12,217 |

Table 8. Spring wild turkey harvest in West Virginia by week of season, 2022–2023.

| WEEK OF SEASON | 2022 | | 2023 | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | BIRDS HARVESTED | % | BIRDS HARVESTED | % |
| Youth | 471 | 5.03 | 781 | 6.39 |
| Week 1 | 4,458 | 47.60 | 6,420 | 52.56 |
| Week 2 | 1,846 | 19.71 | 2,131 | 17.44 |
| Week 3 | 1,051 | 11.22 | 1,265 | 10.35 |
| Week 4 | 946 | 10.10 | 822 | 6.73 |
| Week 5 | 594 | 6.34 | 798 | 6.53 |
| STATE TOTAL | 9,366 | 100 | 12,217 | 100 |

Figure 2. West Virginia's spring turkey harvest, 1966–2023.

West Virginia Spring Gobbler Seasons, 1966–2023

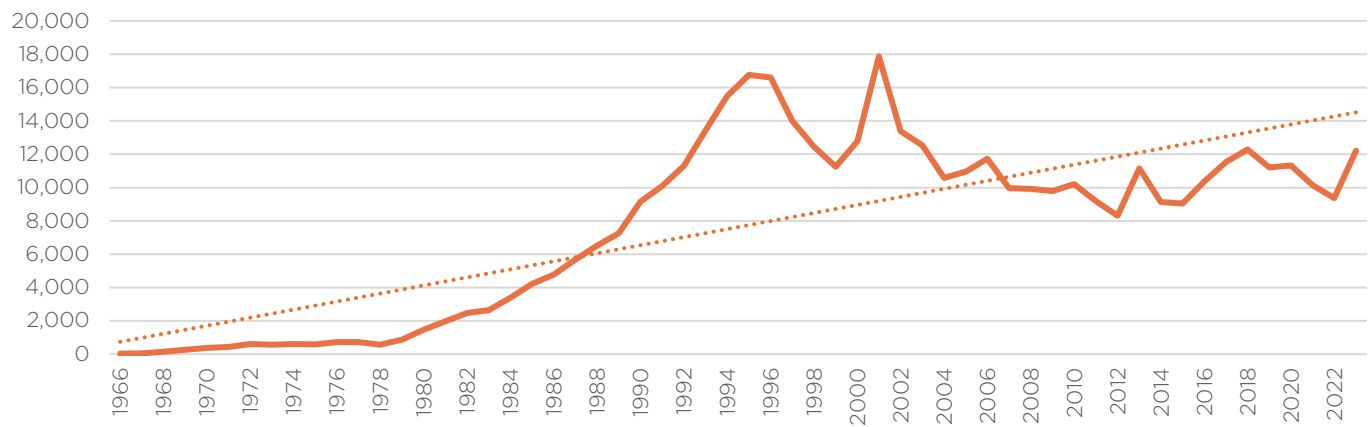


Figure 3. West Virginia's fall turkey harvest, 1966–2023.

West Virginia Fall Turkey Seasons, 1966–2023

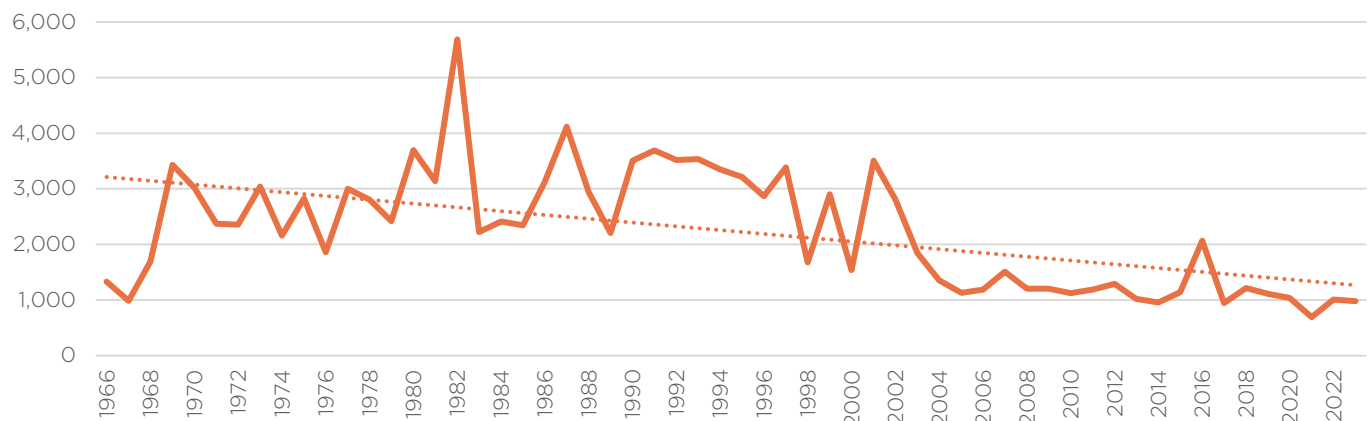


Table 9. Fall harvest of wild turkeys in West Virginia, 2019–2023.

| COUNTY | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Barbour | 18 | 14 | 6 | 13 | 13 |
| Brooke | 4 | 12 | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| Hancock | 15 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| Harrison | 17 | 18 | 9 | 6 | 24 |
| Marion | 14 | 22 | 9 | 8 | 20 |
| Marshall | 14 | 14 | 2 | 16 | 12 |
| Monongalia | 16 | 21 | 12 | 14 | 11 |
| Ohio | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| Preston | 43 | 42 | 10 | 33 | 27 |
| Taylor | 15 | 13 | 3 | 7 | 17 |
| Tucker | 13 | 18 | 3 | 16 | 17 |
| Wetzel | 12 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 3 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 186 | 199 | 72 | 150 | 165 |
| Berkeley | 13 | 17 | 17 | 20 | 14 |
| Grant | 22 | 32 | 26 | 25 | 25 |
| Hampshire | 20 | 19 | 31 | 29 | 26 |
| Hardy | 21 | 12 | 36 | 37 | 25 |
| Jefferson | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Mineral | 19 | 19 | 18 | 26 | 13 |
| Morgan | 10 | 13 | 17 | 23 | 11 |
| Pendleton | 23 | 34 | 19 | 22 | 22 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 130 | 150 | 168 | 187 | 142 |
| Braxton | 17 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 14 |
| Clay | 5 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 13 |
| Lewis | 20 | 16 | 5 | 10 | 11 |
| Nicholas | 51 | 45 | 23 | 65 | 57 |
| Pocahontas | 44 | 37 | 34 | 34 | 28 |
| Randolph | 61 | 64 | 16 | 72 | 42 |
| Upshur | 59 | 37 | 16 | 26 | 24 |
| Webster | 27 | 20 | 12 | 39 | 26 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 284 | 231 | 121 | 261 | 215 |
| Fayette | 36 | 35 | 7 | 15 | 32 |
| Greenbrier | 65 | 53 | 41 | 57 | 46 |
| McDowell | 9 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 11 |
| Mercer | 21 | 26 | 16 | 8 | 27 |
| Monroe | 56 | 46 | 36 | 41 | 43 |
| Raleigh | 25 | 23 | 20 | 15 | 23 |
| Summers | 17 | 16 | 19 | 8 | 25 |
| Wyoming | 19 | 19 | 16 | 19 | 22 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 248 | 224 | 162 | 166 | 229 |
| Boone | 8 | 17 | 13 | 14 | 12 |
| Cabell | 7 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 6 |
| Kanawha | 20 | 19 | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Lincoln | 8 | 9 | 13 | 15 | 6 |
| Logan | 6 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 7 |
| Mason | 33 | 23 | 33 | 21 | 20 |
| Mingo | 8 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 14 |
| Putnam | 20 | 17 | 10 | 27 | 22 |
| Wayne | 4 | 11 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 114 | 130 | 109 | 128 | 111 |
| Calhoun | 10 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 14 |
| Doddridge | 6 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| Gilmer | 9 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Jackson | 27 | 18 | 12 | 25 | 14 |
| Pleasants | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Ritchie | 15 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 7 |
| Roane | 19 | 11 | 8 | 20 | 21 |
| Tyler | 15 | 9 | 2 | 9 | 14 |
| Wirt | 15 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 10 |
| Wood | 29 | 28 | 15 | 22 | 21 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 151 | 104 | 62 | 120 | 119 |
| STATE TOTAL | 1,113 | 1,038 | 694 | 1,012 | 981 |

Table 10. Total spring and fall turkey harvest West Virginia, 1966-2023.

| YEAR | SPRING | FALL | TOTAL | RANK |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| 1966 | 12 | 1,334 | 1,346 | 57 |
| 1967 | 42 | 989 | 1,031 | 58 |
| 1968 | 134 | 1,697 | 1,831 | 56 |
| 1969 | 243 | 3,430 | 3,673 | 46 |
| 1970 | 370 | 3,020 | 3,390 | 49 |
| 1971 | 421 | 2,374 | 2,795 | 53 |
| 1972 | 589 | 2,353 | 2,942 | 52 |
| 1973 | 554 | 3,038 | 3,592 | 47 |
| 1974 | 596 | 2,158 | 2,754 | 54 |
| 1975 | 585 | 2,827 | 3,412 | 48 |
| 1976 | 721 | 1,860 | 2,581 | 55 |
| 1977 | 719 | 2,998 | 3,717 | 45 |
| 1978 | 566 | 2,803 | 3,369 | 50 |
| 1979 | 873 | 2,421 | 3,294 | 51 |
| 1980 | 1,459 | 3,696 | 5,155 | 42 |
| 1981 | 1,970 | 3,135 | 5,105 | 43 |
| 1982 | 2,458 | 5,684 | 8,142 | 38 |
| 1983 | 2,627 | 2,224 | 4,851 | 44 |
| 1984 | 3,387 | 2,414 | 5,801 | 41 |
| 1985 | 4,215 | 2,343 | 6,558 | 40 |
| 1986 | 4,774 | 3,130 | 7,904 | 39 |
| 1987 | 5,665 | 4,114 | 9,779 | 34 |
| 1988 | 6,526 | 2,939 | 9,465 | 36 |
| 1989 | 7,245 | 2,204 | 9,449 | 37 |
| 1990 | 9,152 | 3,504 | 12,656 | 17 |
| 1991 | 10,097 | 3,690 | 13,787 | 13 |
| 1992 | 11,299 | 3,518 | 14,817 | 8 |
| 1993 | 13,428 | 3,536 | 16,964 | 6 |
| 1994 | 15,501 | 3,351 | 18,852 | 4 |
| 1995 | 16,770 | 3,211 | 19,981 | 2 |
| 1996 | 16,618 | 2,870 | 19,488 | 3 |
| 1997 | 14,021 | 3,385 | 17,406 | 5 |
| 1998 | 12,467 | 1,678 | 14,145 | 11 |
| 1999 | 11,241 | 2,901 | 14,142 | 12 |
| 2000 | 12,794 | 1,541 | 14,335 | 10 |
| 2001 | 17,875 | 3,505 | 21,380 | 1 |
| 2002 | 13,385 | 2,808 | 16,193 | 7 |
| 2003 | 12,535 | 1,841 | 14,376 | 9 |
| 2004 | 10,573 | 1,357 | 11,930 | 24 |
| 2005 | 10,957 | 1,130 | 12,087 | 23 |
| 2006 | 11,735 | 1,186 | 12,921 | 16 |
| 2007 | 9,965 | 1,511 | 11,476 | 25 |
| 2008 | 9,929 | 1,206 | 11,135 | 27 |
| 2009 | 9,787 | 1,208 | 10,995 | 28 |
| 2010 | 10,209 | 1,126 | 11,335 | 26 |
| 2011 | 9,190 | 1,186 | 10,376 | 31 |
| 2012 | 8,303 | 1,294 | 9,597 | 35 |
| 2013 | 11,162 | 1,019 | 12,181 | 22 |
| 2014 | 9,128 | 956 | 10,084 | 33 |
| 2015 | 9,037 | 1,140 | 10,177 | 32 |
| 2016 | 10,361 | 2,066 | 12,427 | 19 |
| 2017 | 11,545 | 948 | 12,493 | 18 |
| 2018 | 12,287 | 1,215 | 13,502 | 14 |
| 2019 | 11,215 | 1,113 | 12,328 | 21 |
| 2020 | 11,320 | 1,038 | 12,358 | 20 |
| 2021 | 10,134 | 694 | 10,828 | 29 |
| 2022 | 9,366 | 1,012 | 10,378 | 30 |
| 2023 | 12,217 | 981 | 13,198 | 15 |
| TOTAL | 442,354 | 129,910 | 513,174 | |

Table 11. Wild turkey poult per hen (pph) reported in July and August by region and statewide, 2019-2023.

| YEAR | REGION | PPH |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 2019 | 1 E. Panhandle | 2.40 |
| | 2 Mountains | 2.06 |
| | 3 Western | 1.11 |
| | 4 Southern | 1.78 |
| | Statewide | 1.60 |
| | | |
| 2020 | 1 E. Panhandle | 1.88 |
| | 2 Mountains | 4.24 |
| | 3 Western | 1.39 |
| | 4 Southern | 2.19 |
| | Statewide | 2.01 |
| | | |
| 2021 | 1 E. Panhandle | 3.00 |
| | 2 Mountains | 2.00 |
| | 3 Western | 2.67 |
| | 4 Southern | 2.95 |
| | Statewide | 2.70 |
| | | |
| 2022 | 1 E. Panhandle | 0.91 |
| | 2 Mountains | 2.77 |
| | 3 Western | 3.12 |
| | 4 Southern | 2.23 |
| | Statewide | 2.63 |
| | | |
| 2023 | 1 E. Panhandle | 2.19 |
| | 2 Mountains | 1.98 |
| | 3 Western | 2.64 |
| | 4 Southern | 1.46 |
| | Statewide | 2.12 |
| | | |
| FIVE YEAR AVERAGE | | 2.21 |

Table 12. Wild turkey broods reported by ecological region and month, 2019-2023.

| YEAR | REGION | MONTH | | | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | JUNE | JULY | AUG. | |
| 2019 | 1 E. Panhandle | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| | 2 Mountains | 5 | 6 | 3 | 14 |
| | 3 Western | 14 | 14 | 5 | 33 |
| | 4 Southern | 29 | 31 | 13 | 73 |
| | Subtotal | 49 | 53 | 23 | 125 |
| | | | | | |
| 2020 | 1 E. Panhandle | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| | 2 Mountains | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| | 3 Western | 16 | 14 | 16 | 46 |
| | 4 Southern | 8 | 35 | 26 | 69 |
| | Subtotal | 30 | 52 | 50 | 132 |
| | | | | | |
| 2021 | 1 E. Panhandle | 3 | 0 | 6 | 9 |
| | 2 Mountains | 2 | 4 | 6 | 12 |
| | 3 Western | 17 | 49 | 25 | 91 |
| | 4 Southern | 29 | 27 | 17 | 73 |
| | Subtotal | 51 | 80 | 54 | 185 |
| | | | | | |
| 2022 | 1 E. Panhandle | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| | 2 Mountains | 3 | 6 | 7 | 16 |
| | 3 Western | 17 | 32 | 17 | 66 |
| | 4 Southern | 17 | 25 | 16 | 58 |
| | Subtotal | 38 | 63 | 42 | 143 |
| | | | | | |
| 2023 | 1 E. Panhandle | 8 | 7 | 6 | 21 |
| | 2 Mountains | 2 | 10 | 8 | 20 |
| | 3 Western | 28 | 23 | 25 | 76 |
| | 4 Southern | 13 | 9 | 18 | 40 |
| | Subtotal | 51 | 49 | 57 | 157 |
| | | | | | |
| FIVE YEAR TOTAL | | 219 | 297 | 226 | 742 |
| FIVE YEAR AVERAGE | | 44 | 59 | 45 | 148 |

Table 13. Wild boar harvest by weapon, 2023.

| COUNTY | CROSSBOW | ARCHERY | FIREARM | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Boone | 9 | 12 | 21 | 42 |
| Logan | 13 | 33 | 52 | 98 |
| Raleigh | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Wyoming | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 24 | 45 | 73 | 142 |

Table 14. West Virginia wild boar harvest, 1979–2023.

| YEAR | TOTAL HARVEST |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1979 | 3 |
| 1980 | 10 |
| 1981 | 33 |
| 1982 | 72 |
| 1983 | 54 |
| 1984 | 81 |
| 1985 | 58 |
| 1986 | 35 |
| 1987 | 74 |
| 1988 | 34 |
| 1989 | 116 |
| 1990 | 86 |
| 1991 | 59 |
| 1992 | 130 |
| 1993 | 82 |
| 1994 | 86 |
| 1995 | 158 |
| 1996 | 139 |
| 1997 | 141 |
| 1998 | 58 |
| 1999 | 96 |
| 2000 | 46 |
| 2001 | 43 |
| 2002 | 38 |
| 2003 | 5 |
| 2004 | 7 |
| 2005 | 12 |
| 2006 | 14 |
| 2007 | 22 |
| 2008 | 14 |
| 2009 | 35 |
| 2010 | 16 |
| 2011 | 37 |
| 2012 | 62 |
| 2013 | 49 |
| 2014 | 51 |
| 2015 | 99 |
| 2016 | 46 |
| 2017 | 91 |
| 2018 | 137 |
| 2019 | 88 |
| 2020 | 145 |
| 2021 | 144 |
| 2022 | 111 |
| 2023 | 142 |
| TOTAL | 3,059 |

Hunters killed 142 boars during the 2023 season. This was the fourth consecutive season with a total harvest exceeding 100, which has never occurred during the 45-year history of wild boar hunting within the southern coalfields. Hunters once again had the opportunity to hunt in early February, which produced great results with a harvest of 54 boars. Thirty-nine boars were harvested in Logan County and 15 were harvested in Boone County during the winter firearms season. The February harvest was comparable to the five-year average of the previous February seasons (i.e., 55).

Firearms hunters harvested a total of 73 boars (52 in Logan County and 21 in Boone County) and archers harvested 69 (46 in Logan County, 21 in Boone County and two in Raleigh County). Crossbow hunters accounted for 24 of the archery kills. No harvests were reported for Wyoming County. Poor mast production from white oak and chestnut oak encompassed the current wild boar distribution during 2023. The scarcity of both mast crops significantly influenced the archery harvest which increased 64% from 2022.

Wild Boar were introduced in 1971 to supplement big game populations and did well enough to accommodate a hunting season in 1979. Harvests have ranged from three that year to 158 in 1995. The decline in the population in the late 1990s led to the removal of the December season in 2003. From 2003–2018, the wild boar population exhibited a steady increase, which is the purpose of the single October firearms season. With the increasing boar population and hunter interest for bringing back a late season, biologists analyzed the data and proposed the stand-alone season for February to allow hunters a unique opportunity. The Natural Resources Commission approved the season and numerous hunters have participated during the last six years. Biologists will continue to track the impact of this February season and make proposals accordingly. The February season is proposed to continue for next year. Annual big game seasons are set by the Natural Resources Commission at their spring meeting.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

BY BRETT SKELLY

Deer Season 2023 and January 2024

The following Tables 15–22 contain the 2023 white-tailed deer hunter harvest information for each of West Virginia's 55 counties. In 2023 and January 2024, deer hunters harvested a total of 109,246 deer in the combined deer seasons. This was a decrease of 7.8% from the 2022 and January 2023 harvest of 118,449 and 3.3% above the previous five-year harvest average of 105,718. The total deer harvest represents one deer killed for every 134 acres of deer habitat in the state (Table 21). From 1945 through January 2024, a total of 7,001,257 deer have been recorded as harvested in West Virginia.

In 2023, the traditional buck-only firearms season harvest of antlered bucks was 44,888, an 8% decrease from the 2022 harvest (Table 15). This is 6.3% greater than the five-year average buck-only firearms season harvest of 42,220.

The 2023 antlerless deer harvest taken with a firearm decreased by 8% from that of 2022 and was 2% less than the five-year average of 29,520. A total of 28,940 antlerless deer (Table 18) were taken with a firearm during the antlerless deer season and the Youth, Class Q/QQ (physically challenged) and Senior Lifetime Class XS deer seasons. This year marked the twelfth year for an October firearm antlerless deer season and was the sixth year for a four-day season (October 26–29). For the sixth year, the traditional December antlerless season was increased from three to four days (December 7–10) and followed buck firearms season rather than muzzleloader season. For the fifth-year, qualifying youth, Class Q/QQ, and Senior Lifetime Class XS license holders had an additional day in 2023, which totaled to a four-day, antlerless-only season on private and public land in counties having a firearms deer hunting season.

The 2023 deer statewide archery (bow/crossbow) season opened on September 30, 2023, eight days later than the 2022 season. In the 2023 archery season, a harvest of 30,287 was recorded, which includes 17,600 deer harvested during the archery season with a crossbow (Table 17). Deer reported as harvested with a crossbow represented 58% of the total archery season harvest and ranges from 22% to 75% of the archery antlered deer harvested by county. This year's archery harvest was 7.7% below the 2022 archery season and 2.7% below the five-year average of 31,116.

The 2023 muzzleloader harvest was 4,521, which was less than a 1% difference from the 2022 harvest of 4,530 but includes 576 deer taken with side lock and flintlock muzzleloaders in the Mountaineer Heritage season. This is 1.2% above the five-year average of 4,465.

The harvest of antlerless deer is the key to healthier, heavier, and more productive deer herds. This is because there are natural limits to the number of deer the land can support. When these natural limits are exceeded, deer body weights, reproductive rates, antler development and herd health declines, including an increased likelihood that deer will die over winter. If deer exceed natural limits long enough, habitat quality is reduced, which produces a long-term reduction in the natural limits of deer the land can support. To avoid these problems a minimum of 70 females for every 100 bucks in the harvest is generally required just to stabilize the deer herd. If a decrease in the herd is warranted, the percentage of females needs to be above 40%. The 2023 deer harvest records indicate the percentage of female deer in the harvest was 34.5%, which is expected to slightly increase the statewide deer herd. However, the percentage of female deer in the harvest of individual counties in 2023 varied from 20% to 45%, which reflects the antlerless deer season frameworks designed for individual counties to grow, reduce or stabilize the deer population on a county basis.

Overall deer hunting opportunities for hunters across the state in 2024 are proposed to be similar to those in 2023 with the exception of increased antlerless deer season hunting opportunities in counties where recorded deer harvest data and habitat impacts indicate female deer harvest should be increased to stabilize or decrease current deer populations. Hunters have helped manage deer in the state since mandatory game checking began in 1929, and the information provided by hunters is the foundation for tracking deer herd trends and monitoring doe harvest impacts. To register your harvest, visit WVdnr.gov, call 1-844-982-4325 (1-844-WVCheck) or visit a license agent.

Please refer to the 2024-25 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for future details on all deer hunting seasons because any proposed seasons and bag limits have not been approved by the Natural Resources Commission at this time. White-tailed deer hunting season regulations for 2024 will be published and available to hunters in July of 2024. This newsprint-like pamphlet contains complete information on gun, archery, muzzleloading and antlerless deer hunting, plus other hunting regulations on turkey, bear, boar and small game. Hunters will be able to obtain a copy from any WVDNR office or any business that sells West Virginia hunting licenses or online at WVdnr.gov.

Table 15. West Virginia Antlered Buck Harvest, 2019-20223.

| COUNTY | 2019 | 200 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 855 | 846 | 732 | 938 | 710 |
| Brooke | 188 | 221 | 241 | 318 | 317 |
| Hancock | 153 | 135 | 197 | 227 | 232 |
| Harrison | 551 | 663 | 658 | 993 | 822 |
| Marion | 538 | 675 | 570 | 945 | 667 |
| Marshall | 600 | 680 | 703 | 941 | 871 |
| Monongalia | 550 | 731 | 629 | 937 | 740 |
| Ohio | 200 | 234 | 276 | 342 | 355 |
| Preston | 1,396 | 1,469 | 1,239 | 1,726 | 1,412 |
| Taylor | 347 | 384 | 345 | 547 | 434 |
| Tucker | 602 | 633 | 616 | 765 | 664 |
| Wetzel | 738 | 688 | 713 | 994 | 718 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 6,718 | 7,359 | 6,919 | 9,673 | 7,942 |
| Berkeley | 533 | 597 | 544 | 682 | 637 |
| Grant | 954 | 1,088 | 1,065 | 1,070 | 1,217 |
| Hampshire | 1,231 | 1,382 | 1,475 | 1,428 | 1,121 |
| Hardy | 1,010 | 1,171 | 1,254 | 1,160 | 1,331 |
| Jefferson | 346 | 381 | 386 | 496 | 395 |
| Mineral | 760 | 891 | 990 | 961 | 834 |
| Morgan | 437 | 500 | 491 | 560 | 426 |
| Pendleton | 985 | 1,296 | 1,180 | 1,130 | 1,408 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 6,256 | 7,306 | 7,385 | 7,487 | 7,369 |
| Braxton | 1,142 | 1,088 | 1,230 | 1,137 | 1,389 |
| Clay | 406 | 380 | 601 | 449 | 631 |
| Lewis | 973 | 952 | 944 | 1,261 | 1,080 |
| Nicholas | 924 | 806 | 916 | 1,065 | 1,161 |
| Pocahontas | 952 | 1,082 | 1,021 | 1,185 | 1,231 |
| Randolph | 1,368 | 1,429 | 1,338 | 1,644 | 1,593 |
| Upshur | 1,138 | 1,055 | 1,049 | 1,170 | 853 |
| Webster | 705 | 646 | 662 | 842 | 723 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 8,287 | 7,608 | 7,438 | 7,761 | 8,753 |
| Fayette | 874 | 828 | 993 | 1,123 | 1,222 |
| Greenbrier | 1,500 | 1,318 | 1,595 | 1,838 | 1,884 |
| McDowell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mercer | 515 | 490 | 692 | 697 | 1,014 |
| Monroe | 993 | 887 | 1,212 | 1,168 | 1,389 |
| Raleigh | 598 | 617 | 793 | 844 | 1,039 |
| Summers | 500 | 500 | 716 | 663 | 913 |
| Wyoming | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 4,980 | 4,640 | 6,001 | 6,333 | 7,461 |
| Boone | 433 | 599 | 637 | 769 | 733 |
| Cabell | 316 | 397 | 459 | 496 | 441 |
| Kanawha | 748 | 1,019 | 1,200 | 1,319 | 1,233 |
| Lincoln | 439 | 752 | 1,045 | 906 | 765 |
| Logan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mason | 742 | 1,001 | 1,122 | 1,397 | 905 |
| Mingo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Putnam | 436 | 662 | 739 | 974 | 571 |
| Wayne | 428 | 650 | 818 | 679 | 702 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 3,542 | 5,080 | 6,020 | 6,540 | 5,350 |
| Calhoun | 644 | 504 | 776 | 625 | 855 |
| Doddridge | 762 | 705 | 640 | 1,035 | 654 |
| Gilmer | 768 | 611 | 796 | 906 | 945 |
| Jackson | 893 | 1,062 | 1,336 | 1,509 | 992 |
| Pleasants | 287 | 258 | 200 | 397 | 288 |
| Ritchie | 1,238 | 1,010 | 996 | 1,620 | 946 |
| Roane | 954 | 899 | 1,186 | 1,081 | 1,163 |
| Tyler | 659 | 548 | 505 | 900 | 687 |
| Wirt | 451 | 527 | 617 | 783 | 630 |
| Wood | 712 | 838 | 1,005 | 1,168 | 945 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 7,368 | 6,962 | 8,057 | 10,024 | 8,105 |
| STATE TOTAL | 36,472 | 38,785 | 42,143 | 48,810 | 44,888 |

Table 16. West Virginia White-Tailed Deer Archery Harvest (Traditional Bow Only), 2019-2023.

| COUNTY | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 292 | 271 | 197 | 206 | 180 |
| Brooke | 101 | 135 | 105 | 103 | 136 |
| Hancock | 169 | 159 | 156 | 104 | 120 |
| Harrison | 190 | 264 | 226 | 200 | 178 |
| Marion | 226 | 228 | 213 | 238 | 202 |
| Marshall | 183 | 182 | 141 | 165 | 179 |
| Monongalia | 349 | 416 | 309 | 274 | 293 |
| Ohio | 164 | 168 | 132 | 100 | 114 |
| Preston | 674 | 635 | 444 | 500 | 412 |
| Taylor | 128 | 144 | 118 | 142 | 142 |
| Tucker | 185 | 157 | 146 | 154 | 131 |
| Wetzel | 156 | 116 | 124 | 139 | 115 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 2,817 | 2,875 | 2,311 | 2,325 | 2,202 |
| Berkeley | 310 | 368 | 232 | 245 | 219 |
| Grant | 169 | 199 | 148 | 165 | 152 |
| Hampshire | 239 | 255 | 215 | 218 | 147 |
| Hardy | 181 | 199 | 155 | 159 | 169 |
| Jefferson | 218 | 243 | 209 | 222 | 185 |
| Mineral | 152 | 168 | 144 | 177 | 138 |
| Morgan | 107 | 147 | 105 | 114 | 69 |
| Pendleton | 191 | 224 | 166 | 161 | 187 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 1,567 | 1,803 | 1,374 | 1,461 | 1,266 |
| Braxton | 304 | 271 | 298 | 243 | 288 |
| Clay | 104 | 101 | 128 | 72 | 106 |
| Lewis | 250 | 229 | 188 | 236 | 201 |
| Nicholas | 292 | 237 | 225 | 274 | 257 |
| Pocahontas | 128 | 140 | 95 | 132 | 107 |
| Randolph | 350 | 299 | 259 | 255 | 225 |
| Upshur | 334 | 274 | 264 | 292 | 200 |
| Webster | 133 | 130 | 149 | 132 | 97 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 1,895 | 1,681 | 1,606 | 1,636 | 1,481 |
| Fayette | 359 | 328 | 318 | 328 | 324 |
| Greenbrier | 275 | 267 | 264 | 252 | 227 |
| McDowell | 454 | 392 | 551 | 478 | 586 |
| Mercer | 364 | 333 | 382 | 291 | 372 |
| Monroe | 248 | 242 | 211 | 209 | 213 |
| Raleigh | 419 | 432 | 429 | 410 | 445 |
| Summers | 155 | 183 | 206 | 167 | 211 |
| Wyoming | 799 | 687 | 945 | 826 | 1,036 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 3,073 | 2,864 | 3,306 | 2,961 | 3,414 |
| Boone | 189 | 230 | 182 | 198 | 199 |
| Cabell | 162 | 171 | 146 | 152 | 144 |
| Kanawha | 534 | 581 | 533 | 408 | 388 |
| Lincoln | 186 | 210 | 268 | 205 | 195 |
| Logan | 448 | 510 | 593 | 553 | 559 |
| Mason | 317 | 375 | 378 | 415 | 340 |
| Mingo | 288 | 349 | 425 | 305 | 464 |
| Putnam | 210 | 288 | 268 | 273 | 203 |
| Wayne | 161 | 212 | 193 | 167 | 179 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 2,495 | 2,926 | 2,986 | 2,676 | 2,671 |
| Calhoun | 118 | 103 | 132 | 106 | 117 |
| Doddridge | 140 | 128 | 122 | 158 | 101 |
| Gilmer | 121 | 99 | 119 | 117 | 110 |
| Jackson | 360 | 408 | 416 | 474 | 340 |
| Pleasants | 60 | 63 | 42 | 68 | 57 |
| Ritchie | 305 | 266 | 221 | 261 | 192 |
| Roane | 246 | 242 | 289 | 191 | 213 |
| Tyler | 160 | 142 | 104 | 139 | 111 |
| Wirt | 147 | 152 | 163 | 148 | 131 |
| Wood | 336 | 375 | 330 | 350 | 281 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 1,993 | 1,978 | 1,938 | 2,012 | 1,653 |
| STATE TOTAL | 13,840 | 14,127 | 13,521 | 13,071 | 12,687 |

Table 17. West Virginia White-Tailed Deer Archery Harvest (Crossbow Only), 2019-2023.

| COUNTY | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 401 | 459 | 332 | 398 | 290 |
| Brooke | 92 | 92 | 129 | 129 | 157 |
| Hancock | 151 | 149 | 170 | 157 | 170 |
| Harrison | 214 | 275 | 261 | 308 | 291 |
| Marion | 244 | 320 | 290 | 418 | 354 |
| Marshall | 203 | 195 | 194 | 276 | 275 |
| Monongalia | 326 | 436 | 337 | 391 | 414 |
| Ohio | 124 | 140 | 154 | 120 | 157 |
| Preston | 1,008 | 1,107 | 813 | 1,033 | 852 |
| Taylor | 206 | 239 | 201 | 237 | 193 |
| Tucker | 330 | 358 | 307 | 367 | 291 |
| Wetzel | 257 | 242 | 211 | 296 | 219 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 3,556 | 4,012 | 3,399 | 4,130 | 3,663 |
| Berkeley | 339 | 489 | 384 | 419 | 354 |
| Grant | 263 | 293 | 264 | 239 | 255 |
| Hampshire | 267 | 306 | 278 | 312 | 216 |
| Hardy | 198 | 248 | 262 | 255 | 230 |
| Jefferson | 242 | 292 | 308 | 320 | 247 |
| Mineral | 240 | 313 | 283 | 297 | 255 |
| Morgan | 161 | 231 | 201 | 283 | 144 |
| Pendleton | 232 | 313 | 310 | 272 | 278 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 1,942 | 2,485 | 2,290 | 2,397 | 1,979 |
| Braxton | 355 | 358 | 427 | 374 | 532 |
| Clay | 185 | 170 | 239 | 155 | 231 |
| Lewis | 302 | 310 | 366 | 437 | 324 |
| Nicholas | 453 | 433 | 454 | 522 | 520 |
| Pocahontas | 185 | 244 | 217 | 234 | 249 |
| Randolph | 789 | 780 | 764 | 831 | 670 |
| Upshur | 613 | 617 | 586 | 668 | 474 |
| Webster | 334 | 279 | 341 | 385 | 297 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 3,216 | 3,191 | 3,394 | 3,606 | 3,297 |
| Fayette | 538 | 541 | 546 | 616 | 665 |
| Greenbrier | 429 | 460 | 511 | 511 | 483 |
| McDowell | 123 | 123 | 173 | 187 | 223 |
| Mercer | 399 | 383 | 432 | 405 | 536 |
| Monroe | 334 | 329 | 391 | 364 | 401 |
| Raleigh | 562 | 575 | 650 | 584 | 721 |
| Summers | 215 | 243 | 295 | 261 | 318 |
| Wyoming | 173 | 164 | 225 | 224 | 286 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 2,773 | 2,818 | 3,223 | 3,152 | 3,633 |
| Boone | 184 | 250 | 257 | 268 | 237 |
| Cabell | 115 | 209 | 216 | 189 | 185 |
| Kanawha | 464 | 597 | 693 | 654 | 571 |
| Lincoln | 139 | 246 | 322 | 247 | 253 |
| Logan | 97 | 130 | 191 | 176 | 186 |
| Mason | 262 | 355 | 348 | 414 | 313 |
| Mingo | 83 | 101 | 131 | 132 | 197 |
| Putnam | 183 | 265 | 289 | 352 | 217 |
| Wayne | 142 | 180 | 173 | 160 | 194 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 1,669 | 2,333 | 2,620 | 2,592 | 2,353 |
| Calhoun | 254 | 202 | 326 | 244 | 312 |
| Doddridge | 178 | 182 | 186 | 251 | 139 |
| Gilmer | 260 | 197 | 253 | 256 | 297 |
| Jackson | 282 | 339 | 386 | 474 | 294 |
| Pleasants | 111 | 100 | 86 | 136 | 81 |
| Ritchie | 374 | 359 | 316 | 524 | 317 |
| Roane | 292 | 266 | 427 | 343 | 394 |
| Tyler | 215 | 193 | 171 | 232 | 166 |
| Wirt | 196 | 199 | 207 | 229 | 193 |
| Wood | 379 | 561 | 514 | 613 | 482 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 2,541 | 2,598 | 2,872 | 3,302 | 2,675 |
| STATE TOTAL | 15,697 | 17,437 | 17,798 | 19,179 | 17,600 |

Table 18. West Virginia Antlerless Deer Harvest, 2019–2023.

| COUNTY | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Barbour | 873 | 945 | 725 | 849 | 754 |
| Brooke | 149 | 227 | 189 | 201 | 251 |
| Hancock | 104 | 127 | 104 | 135 | 138 |
| Harrison | 517 | 653 | 492 | 597 | 615 |
| Marion | 554 | 661 | 471 | 655 | 616 |
| Marshall | 372 | 475 | 384 | 463 | 524 |
| Monongalia | 565 | 755 | 534 | 673 | 680 |
| Ohio | 151 | 183 | 155 | 151 | 217 |
| Preston | 1,663 | 2,041 | 1,327 | 1,516 | 1,485 |
| Taylor | 351 | 470 | 320 | 407 | 365 |
| Tucker | 346 | 418 | 328 | 425 | 318 |
| Wetzel | 461 | 504 | 454 | 568 | 465 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 6,106 | 7,459 | 5,483 | 6,640 | 6,428 |
| Berkeley | 543 | 711 | 543 | 676 | 629 |
| Grant | 528 | 655 | 558 | 552 | 520 |
| Hampshire | 966 | 1,132 | 1,031 | 1,056 | 739 |
| Hardy | 631 | 773 | 778 | 777 | 721 |
| Jefferson | 381 | 450 | 363 | 427 | 386 |
| Mineral | 547 | 733 | 693 | 786 | 628 |
| Morgan | 462 | 545 | 464 | 589 | 394 |
| Pendleton | 502 | 662 | 585 | 495 | 532 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 4,560 | 5,661 | 5,015 | 5,358 | 4,549 |
| Braxton | 816 | 748 | 821 | 739 | 947 |
| Clay | 166 | 167 | 216 | 187 | 301 |
| Lewis | 1,075 | 1,130 | 913 | 1,244 | 1,090 |
| Nicholas | 437 | 434 | 317 | 406 | 509 |
| Pocahontas | 233 | 260 | 308 | 314 | 321 |
| Randolph | 772 | 851 | 674 | 815 | 738 |
| Upshur | 1,196 | 1,282 | 1,048 | 1,228 | 1,050 |
| Webster | 284 | 238 | 221 | 320 | 278 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 4,979 | 5,110 | 4,518 | 5,253 | 5,234 |
| Fayette | 482 | 497 | 403 | 400 | 601 |
| Greenbrier | 724 | 741 | 594 | 686 | 759 |
| McDowell | 412 | 419 | 375 | 381 | 502 |
| Mercer | 938 | 898 | 891 | 863 | 921 |
| Monroe | 284 | 241 | 211 | 237 | 315 |
| Raleigh | 380 | 420 | 391 | 358 | 494 |
| Summers | 3,220 | 3,216 | 2,865 | 2,925 | 3,592 |
| Wyoming | 138 | 218 | 197 | 213 | 211 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 256 | 312 | 246 | 249 | 208 |
| Boone | 401 | 417 | 391 | 376 | 314 |
| Cabell | 252 | 387 | 472 | 492 | 411 |
| Kanawha | 858 | 875 | 1,078 | 1,240 | 837 |
| Lincoln | 521 | 606 | 633 | 711 | 456 |
| Logan | 111 | 141 | 218 | 228 | 200 |
| Mason | 2,537 | 2,956 | 3,235 | 3,509 | 2,637 |
| Mingo | 608 | 561 | 579 | 533 | 619 |
| Putnam | 531 | 535 | 411 | 620 | 429 |
| Wayne | 609 | 490 | 568 | 617 | 629 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 907 | 1,065 | 1,092 | 1,314 | 890 |
| Calhoun | 182 | 197 | 174 | 170 | 130 |
| Doddridge | 1,108 | 1,079 | 883 | 1,234 | 891 |
| Gilmer | 940 | 771 | 945 | 926 | 955 |
| Jackson | 607 | 614 | 489 | 728 | 559 |
| Pleasants | 576 | 497 | 451 | 566 | 434 |
| Ritchie | 866 | 1,044 | 906 | 1,060 | 964 |
| Roane | 6,934 | 6,853 | 6,498 | 7,768 | 6,500 |
| Tyler | 28,336 | 31,255 | 27,614 | 31,453 | 28,940 |
| Wirt | 721 | 576 | 497 | 451 | 566 |
| Wood | 1,057 | 866 | 1,044 | 906 | 1,060 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 7,837 | 6,934 | 6,853 | 6,498 | 7,768 |
| STATE TOTAL | 28,336 | 31,255 | 27,614 | 31,453 | 28,940 |

Table 19. West Virginia Muzzleloader Harvest, 2019–2023.

| COUNTY | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Barbour | 122 | 161 | 107 | 117 | 95 |
| Brooke | 31 | 30 | 14 | 37 | 27 |
| Hancock | 30 | 33 | 30 | 44 | 39 |
| Harrison | 69 | 85 | 49 | 65 | 74 |
| Marion | 77 | 104 | 59 | 82 | 84 |
| Marshall | 71 | 89 | 74 | 74 | 97 |
| Monongalia | 109 | 104 | 53 | 74 | 86 |
| Ohio | 36 | 46 | 25 | 45 | 46 |
| Preston | 268 | 277 | 138 | 202 | 187 |
| Taylor | 64 | 60 | 38 | 56 | 58 |
| Tucker | 89 | 70 | 49 | 66 | 90 |
| Wetzel | 70 | 69 | 53 | 96 | 70 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 1,036 | 1,128 | 689 | 958 | 953 |
| Berkeley | 75 | 65 | 60 | 77 | 76 |
| Grant | 97 | 84 | 75 | 64 | 83 |
| Hampshire | 125 | 98 | 99 | 72 | 84 |
| Hardy | 85 | 64 | 69 | 71 | 93 |
| Jefferson | 45 | 49 | 51 | 52 | 54 |
| Mineral | 69 | 85 | 72 | 52 | 54 |
| Morgan | 50 | 68 | 42 | 46 | 35 |
| Pendleton | 70 | 62 | 59 | 66 | 74 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 616 | 575 | 527 | 500 | 553 |
| Braxton | 176 | 134 | 133 | 137 | 193 |
| Clay | 35 | 16 | 22 | 39 | 61 |
| Lewis | 140 | 139 | 111 | 139 | 104 |
| Nicholas | 203 | 209 | 116 | 187 | 225 |
| Pocahontas | 75 | 66 | 52 | 52 | 72 |
| Randolph | 253 | 218 | 125 | 193 | 199 |
| Upshur | 193 | 168 | 131 | 154 | 134 |
| Webster | 161 | 126 | 67 | 106 | 98 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 1,236 | 1,076 | 757 | 1,007 | 1,086 |
| Fayette | 165 | 119 | 88 | 125 | 127 |
| Greenbrier | 160 | 146 | 116 | 153 | 160 |
| McDowell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mercer | 101 | 54 | 60 | 72 | 98 |
| Monroe | 96 | 77 | 66 | 76 | 95 |
| Raleigh | 92 | 87 | 66 | 90 | 116 |
| Summers | 78 | 59 | 59 | 72 | 90 |
| Wyoming | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 692 | 542 | 455 | 588 | 686 |
| Boone | 88 | 77 | 57 | 98 | 97 |
| Cabell | 37 | 38 | 41 | 53 | 38 |
| Kanawha | 94 | 76 | 59 | 79 | 68 |
| Lincoln | 70 | 87 | 95 | 85 | 61 |
| Logan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mason | 108 | 143 | 107 | 133 | 111 |
| Mingo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Putnam | 75 | 64 | 59 | 84 | 60 |
| Wayne | 55 | 39 | 45 | 31 | 43 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 527 | 524 | 463 | 563 | 478 |
| Calhoun | 70 | 56 | 62 | 57 | 71 |
| Doddridge | 90 | 66 | 44 | 78 | 60 |
| Gilmer | 96 | 56 | 67 | 77 | 72 |
| Jackson | 158 | 131 | 140 | 152 | 114 |
| Pleasants | 29 | 31 | 17 | 37 | 19 |
| Ritchie | 125 | 98 | 63 | 132 | 84 |
| Roane | 125 | 91 | 90 | 107 | 106 |
| Tyler | 84 | 76 | 43 | 69 | 60 |
| Wirt | 75 | 56 | 63 | 69 | 71 |
| Wood | 133 | 109 | 89 | 136 | 108 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 985 | 770 | 678 | 914 | 765 |
| STATE TOTAL | 5,092 | 4,615 | 3,569 | 4,530 | 4,521 |

Table 20. Deer Mortality by Type of Season in West Virginia, 2023.

| COUNTY | BUCK GUN | ANTLERLESS | ARCHERY | CROSSBOW | MUZZLELOADER | MOUNTAINEER HERITAGE | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Barbour | 710 | 754 | 180 | 290 | 95 | 5 | 2,034 |
| Brooke | 317 | 251 | 136 | 157 | 27 | 2 | 890 |
| Hancock | 232 | 138 | 120 | 170 | 39 | 7 | 706 |
| Harrison | 822 | 615 | 178 | 291 | 74 | 9 | 1,989 |
| Marion | 667 | 616 | 202 | 354 | 84 | 18 | 1,941 |
| Marshall | 871 | 524 | 179 | 275 | 97 | 11 | 1,957 |
| Monongalia | 740 | 680 | 293 | 414 | 86 | 16 | 2,229 |
| Ohio | 355 | 217 | 114 | 157 | 46 | 8 | 897 |
| Preston | 1,412 | 1,485 | 412 | 852 | 187 | 24 | 4,372 |
| Taylor | 434 | 365 | 142 | 193 | 58 | 13 | 1,205 |
| Tucker | 664 | 318 | 131 | 291 | 90 | 10 | 1,504 |
| Wetzel | 718 | 465 | 115 | 219 | 70 | 13 | 1,600 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 7,942 | 6,428 | 2,202 | 3,663 | 953 | 136 | 21,324 |
| Berkeley | 637 | 629 | 219 | 354 | 76 | 6 | 1,921 |
| Grant | 1,217 | 520 | 152 | 255 | 83 | 8 | 2,235 |
| Hampshire | 1,121 | 739 | 147 | 216 | 84 | 4 | 2,311 |
| Hardy | 1,331 | 721 | 169 | 230 | 93 | 9 | 2,553 |
| Jefferson | 395 | 386 | 185 | 247 | 54 | 3 | 1,270 |
| Mineral | 834 | 628 | 138 | 255 | 54 | 8 | 1,917 |
| Morgan | 426 | 394 | 69 | 144 | 35 | 2 | 1,070 |
| Pendleton | 1,408 | 532 | 187 | 278 | 74 | 11 | 2,490 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 7,369 | 4,549 | 1,266 | 1,979 | 553 | 51 | 15,767 |
| Braxton | 1,389 | 947 | 288 | 532 | 193 | 14 | 3,363 |
| Clay | 631 | 301 | 106 | 231 | 61 | 9 | 1,339 |
| Lewis | 1,080 | 1,090 | 201 | 324 | 104 | 17 | 2,816 |
| Nicholas | 1,161 | 509 | 257 | 520 | 225 | 29 | 2,701 |
| Pocahontas | 1,231 | 321 | 107 | 249 | 72 | 13 | 1,993 |
| Randolph | 1,593 | 738 | 225 | 670 | 199 | 28 | 3,453 |
| Upshur | 853 | 1,050 | 200 | 474 | 134 | 37 | 2,748 |
| Webster | 723 | 278 | 97 | 297 | 98 | 13 | 1,506 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 8,661 | 5,234 | 1,481 | 3,297 | 1,086 | 160 | 19,919 |
| Fayette | 1,222 | 601 | 324 | 665 | 127 | 22 | 2,961 |
| Greenbrier | 1,884 | 759 | 227 | 483 | 160 | 12 | 3,525 |
| McDowell | 0 | 0 | 586 | 223 | 0 | 1 | 810 |
| Mercer | 1,014 | 502 | 372 | 536 | 98 | 14 | 2,536 |
| Monroe | 1,389 | 921 | 213 | 401 | 95 | 15 | 3,034 |
| Raleigh | 1,039 | 315 | 445 | 721 | 116 | 20 | 2,656 |
| Summers | 913 | 494 | 211 | 318 | 90 | 7 | 2,033 |
| Wyoming | 0 | 0 | 1,036 | 286 | 0 | 7 | 1,329 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 7,461 | 3,592 | 3,414 | 3,633 | 686 | 98 | 18,884 |
| Boone | 733 | 211 | 199 | 237 | 97 | 13 | 1,490 |
| Cabell | 441 | 208 | 144 | 185 | 38 | 1 | 1,017 |
| Kanawha | 1,233 | 314 | 388 | 571 | 68 | 20 | 2,594 |
| Lincoln | 765 | 411 | 195 | 253 | 61 | 7 | 1,692 |
| Logan | 0 | 0 | 559 | 186 | 0 | 2 | 747 |
| Mason | 905 | 837 | 340 | 313 | 111 | 7 | 2,513 |
| Mingo | 0 | 0 | 464 | 197 | 0 | 0 | 661 |
| Putnam | 571 | 456 | 203 | 217 | 60 | 14 | 1,521 |
| Wayne | 702 | 200 | 179 | 194 | 43 | 2 | 1,320 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 5,350 | 2,637 | 2,671 | 2,353 | 478 | 66 | 13,555 |
| Calhoun | 855 | 619 | 117 | 312 | 71 | 1 | 1,975 |
| Doddridge | 654 | 429 | 101 | 139 | 60 | 4 | 1,387 |
| Gilmer | 945 | 629 | 110 | 297 | 72 | 9 | 2,062 |
| Jackson | 992 | 890 | 340 | 294 | 114 | 13 | 2,643 |
| Pleasants | 288 | 130 | 57 | 81 | 19 | 1 | 576 |
| Ritchie | 946 | 891 | 192 | 317 | 84 | 17 | 2,447 |
| Roane | 1,163 | 955 | 213 | 394 | 106 | 18 | 2,849 |
| Tyler | 687 | 559 | 111 | 166 | 60 | 7 | 1,590 |
| Wirt | 630 | 434 | 131 | 193 | 71 | 6 | 1,465 |
| Wood | 945 | 964 | 281 | 482 | 108 | 23 | 2,803 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 8,105 | 6,500 | 1,653 | 2,675 | 765 | 99 | 19,797 |
| STATE TOTAL | 44,888 | 28,940 | 12,687 | 17,600 | 4,521 | 610 | 109,246 |

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Table 21. West Virginia 2023 deer kill per square mile of habitat by season.* (Calculated using deer habitat open by county for season, all seasons combined kill based on total deer habitat for county).

| COUNTY | AREA | BUCKS | ANTLERLESS | ARCHERY BOW/CROSSBOW | MUZZLELOADER | ALL SEASONS COMBINED |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Barbour | 328 | 2.16 | 2.30 | 1.43 | 0.29 | 6.20 |
| Brooke | 72 | 4.40 | 3.49 | 4.07 | 0.38 | 12.36 |
| Hancock | 64 | 3.63 | 2.16 | 4.53 | 0.61 | 11.03 |
| Harrison | 379 | 2.17 | 1.62 | 1.24 | 0.20 | 5.25 |
| Marion | 286 | 2.33 | 2.15 | 1.94 | 0.29 | 6.79 |
| Marshall | 294 | 2.96 | 1.78 | 1.54 | 0.33 | 6.66 |
| Monongalia | 310 | 2.39 | 2.19 | 2.28 | 0.28 | 7.19 |
| Ohio | 82 | 4.33 | 2.65 | 3.30 | 0.56 | 10.94 |
| Preston | 632 | 2.23 | 2.35 | 2.00 | 0.30 | 6.92 |
| Taylor | 160 | 2.71 | 2.28 | 2.09 | 0.36 | 7.53 |
| Tucker | 402 | 1.65 | 0.79 | 1.05 | 0.22 | 3.74 |
| Wetzel | 350 | 2.05 | 1.33 | 0.95 | 0.20 | 4.57 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 3,359 | 2.36 | 1.91 | 1.75 | 0.28 | 6.35 |
| Berkeley | 297 | 2.14 | 2.12 | 1.93 | 0.26 | 6.47 |
| Grant | 471 | 2.58 | 1.10 | 0.86 | 0.18 | 4.75 |
| Hampshire | 631 | 1.78 | 1.17 | 0.58 | 0.13 | 3.66 |
| Hardy | 569 | 2.34 | 1.27 | 0.70 | 0.16 | 4.49 |
| Jefferson | 198 | 1.99 | 1.95 | 2.18 | 0.27 | 6.41 |
| Mineral | 319 | 2.61 | 1.97 | 1.23 | 0.17 | 6.01 |
| Morgan | 213 | 2.00 | 1.85 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 5.02 |
| Pendleton | 690 | 2.04 | 0.77 | 0.67 | 0.11 | 3.61 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 3,388 | 2.18 | 1.34 | 0.96 | 0.16 | 4.65 |
| Braxton | 501 | 2.77 | 1.89 | 1.64 | 0.39 | 6.71 |
| Clay | 338 | 1.87 | 0.89 | 1.00 | 0.18 | 3.96 |
| Lewis | 373 | 2.90 | 2.92 | 1.41 | 0.28 | 7.55 |
| Nicholas | 632 | 1.84 | 0.81 | 1.23 | 0.36 | 4.27 |
| Pocahontas | 911 | 1.35 | 0.35 | 0.39 | 0.08 | 2.19 |
| Randolph | 1,019 | 1.56 | 0.72 | 0.88 | 0.20 | 3.39 |
| Upshur | 343 | 2.49 | 3.06 | 1.97 | 0.39 | 8.01 |
| Webster | 535 | 1.35 | 0.52 | 0.74 | 0.18 | 2.81 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 4,652 | 1.86 | 1.13 | 1.03 | 0.23 | 4.28 |
| Fayette | 629 | 1.94 | 1.51 | 1.57 | 0.20 | 4.71 |
| Greenbrier | 991 | 1.90 | 0.77 | 0.72 | 0.16 | 3.56 |
| McDowell | 515 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.57 | 0.00 | 1.57 |
| Mercer | 380 | 2.67 | 1.32 | 2.39 | 0.26 | 6.67 |
| Monroe | 463 | 3.00 | 1.99 | 1.33 | 0.21 | 6.55 |
| Raleigh | 562 | 1.85 | 0.88 | 2.07 | 0.21 | 4.73 |
| Summers | 341 | 2.68 | 1.45 | 1.55 | 0.26 | 5.96 |
| Wyoming | 481 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.75 | 0.00 | 2.76 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 4,361 | 1.71 | 0.82 | 1.62 | 0.16 | 4.33 |
| Boone | 485 | 1.51 | 0.44 | 0.90 | 0.20 | 3.07 |
| Cabell | 240 | 1.84 | 0.87 | 1.37 | 0.16 | 4.24 |
| Kanawha | 798 | 1.55 | 1.10 | 1.20 | 0.09 | 3.25 |
| Lincoln | 426 | 1.80 | 0.96 | 1.05 | 0.14 | 3.97 |
| Logan | 422 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.77 | 0.00 | 1.77 |
| Mason | 413 | 2.19 | 2.03 | 1.58 | 0.27 | 6.08 |
| Mingo | 404 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.64 | 0.00 | 1.64 |
| Putnam | 320 | 1.78 | 1.43 | 1.31 | 0.19 | 4.75 |
| Wayne | 485 | 1.45 | 0.76 | 0.77 | 0.09 | 2.72 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 3,993 | 1.34 | 0.66 | 1.26 | 0.12 | 3.39 |
| Calhoun | 276 | 3.10 | 2.24 | 1.55 | 0.26 | 7.16 |
| Doddridge | 316 | 2.07 | 1.36 | 0.76 | 0.19 | 4.39 |
| Gilmer | 330 | 2.86 | 1.91 | 1.23 | 0.22 | 6.25 |
| Jackson | 447 | 2.22 | 1.99 | 1.42 | 0.26 | 5.91 |
| Pleasants | 125 | 2.30 | 1.04 | 1.10 | 0.15 | 4.61 |
| Ritchie | 443 | 2.14 | 2.01 | 1.15 | 0.19 | 5.52 |
| Roane | 476 | 2.44 | 2.01 | 1.28 | 0.22 | 5.99 |
| Tyler | 252 | 2.73 | 2.22 | 1.10 | 0.24 | 6.31 |
| Wirt | 230 | 2.74 | 1.89 | 1.41 | 0.31 | 6.37 |
| Wood | 325 | 2.91 | 2.97 | 2.35 | 0.33 | 8.62 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 3,220 | 2.52 | 2.02 | 1.34 | 0.24 | 6.15 |
| STATE TOTAL | 22,972 | 1.95 | 1.26 | 1.32 | 0.20 | 4.76 |

*NOTE: Counties or portions thereof not open to Class N antlerless deer season include special youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS season harvest. However, antlerless kill per square mile is calculated only on area open to Class N season if a portion of the county is closed to Class N season.

Table 22. West Virginia 2023 Deer Harvest by Deer Type.

| COUNTY | ANTLERED | ANTLERS LESS THAN 3 INCHES | BUTTON BUCK | FEMALE DEER | SHED | GRAND TOTAL |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Barbour | 1,040 | 71 | 50 | 868 | 5 | 2,034 |
| Brooke | 553 | 18 | 23 | 295 | 1 | 890 |
| Hancock | 455 | 16 | 17 | 213 | 5 | 706 |
| Harrison | 1,195 | 51 | 23 | 713 | 7 | 1,989 |
| Marion | 1,068 | 63 | 45 | 764 | 1 | 1,941 |
| Marshall | 1,258 | 39 | 31 | 623 | 6 | 1,957 |
| Monongalia | 1,288 | 63 | 41 | 827 | 10 | 2,229 |
| Ohio | 572 | 17 | 17 | 290 | 1 | 897 |
| Preston | 2,335 | 126 | 97 | 1,806 | 8 | 4,372 |
| Taylor | 703 | 25 | 28 | 446 | 3 | 1,205 |
| Tucker | 992 | 37 | 17 | 456 | 2 | 1,504 |
| Wetzel | 989 | 44 | 32 | 533 | 2 | 1,600 |
| District 1 Subtotal | 12,448 | 570 | 421 | 7,834 | 51 | 21,324 |
| Berkeley | 1,016 | 73 | 35 | 796 | 1 | 1,921 |
| Grant | 1,564 | 44 | 37 | 586 | 4 | 2,235 |
| Hampshire | 1,353 | 71 | 28 | 853 | 6 | 2,311 |
| Hardy | 1,605 | 73 | 29 | 841 | 5 | 2,553 |
| Jefferson | 669 | 47 | 36 | 516 | 2 | 1,270 |
| Mineral | 1,114 | 62 | 35 | 703 | 3 | 1,917 |
| Morgan | 546 | 56 | 29 | 439 | | 1,070 |
| Pendleton | 1,786 | 47 | 26 | 627 | 4 | 2,490 |
| District 2 Subtotal | 9,653 | 473 | 255 | 5,361 | 25 | 15,767 |
| Braxton | 1,982 | 96 | 63 | 1,214 | 8 | 3,363 |
| Clay | 887 | 29 | 26 | 392 | 5 | 1,339 |
| Lewis | 1,426 | 75 | 87 | 1,219 | 9 | 2,816 |
| Nicholas | 1,696 | 59 | 53 | 884 | 9 | 2,701 |
| Pocahontas | 1,489 | 40 | 21 | 442 | 1 | 1,993 |
| Randolph | 2,292 | 82 | 56 | 1,015 | 8 | 3,453 |
| Upshur | 1,308 | 113 | 82 | 1,239 | 6 | 2,748 |
| Webster | 992 | 21 | 21 | 467 | 5 | 1,506 |
| District 3 Subtotal | 12,072 | 515 | 409 | 6,872 | 51 | 19,919 |
| Fayette | 1,882 | 67 | 67 | 934 | 11 | 2,961 |
| Greenbrier | 2,403 | 70 | 50 | 996 | 6 | 3,525 |
| McDowell | 586 | 15 | 9 | 199 | 1 | 810 |
| Mercer | 1,692 | 52 | 37 | 752 | 3 | 2,536 |
| Monroe | 1,809 | 63 | 60 | 1,098 | 4 | 3,034 |
| Raleigh | 1,832 | 47 | 49 | 726 | 2 | 2,656 |
| Summers | 1,300 | 35 | 34 | 661 | 3 | 2,033 |
| Wyoming | 839 | 19 | 10 | 450 | 11 | 1,329 |
| District 4 Subtotal | 12,343 | 368 | 316 | 5,816 | 41 | 18,884 |
| Boone | 1,052 | 30 | 21 | 385 | 2 | 1,490 |
| Cabell | 712 | 22 | 14 | 268 | 1 | 1,017 |
| Kanawha | 1,904 | 52 | 32 | 601 | 5 | 2,594 |
| Lincoln | 1,102 | 41 | 27 | 520 | 2 | 1,692 |
| Logan | 480 | 7 | 10 | 250 | | 747 |
| Mason | 1,381 | 81 | 57 | 993 | 1 | 2,513 |
| Mingo | 460 | 10 | 8 | 178 | 5 | 661 |
| Putnam | 884 | 53 | 26 | 556 | 2 | 1,521 |
| Wayne | 1,010 | 27 | 13 | 263 | 7 | 1,320 |
| District 5 Subtotal | 8,985 | 323 | 208 | 4,014 | 25 | 13,555 |
| Calhoun | 1,172 | 65 | 46 | 686 | 6 | 1,975 |
| Doddridge | 845 | 51 | 33 | 457 | 1 | 1,387 |
| Gilmer | 1,269 | 45 | 31 | 714 | 3 | 2,062 |
| Jackson | 1,457 | 80 | 70 | 1,027 | 9 | 2,643 |
| Pleasants | 389 | 15 | 15 | 157 | | 576 |
| Ritchie | 1,308 | 110 | 55 | 969 | 5 | 2,447 |
| Roane | 1,620 | 73 | 56 | 1,088 | 12 | 2,849 |
| Tyler | 896 | 63 | 37 | 593 | 1 | 1,590 |
| Wirt | 863 | 48 | 28 | 524 | 2 | 1,465 |
| Wood | 1,436 | 73 | 59 | 1,233 | 2 | 2,803 |
| District 6 Subtotal | 11,255 | 623 | 430 | 7,448 | 41 | 19,797 |
| STATE TOTAL | 66,756 | 2,872 | 2,039 | 37,345 | 234 | 109,246 |



Your purchase
of hunting equipment
supports
Wildlife Restoration

WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

**WILDLIFE
RESOURCES**

324 4th Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303

WVdnr.gov | 304-558-6200 | dnr.wildlife@wv.gov |   

Bulletin 23-1